

Message Text

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FROM AMBASSADOR WELLS FOR DEPUTY ASST SECY FRANK, IO USOECD

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EAID UNDP UN
SUBJ: 24TH UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL - DISCUSSION OF BASIC HUMAN
NEEDS

1. UPI REPORT OF JUNE 23 ON OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING
STATES THAT SECRETARY VANCE CALLED ON FELLOW MEMBERS
OF OECD TO "ESTABLISH A SPECIAL WORKING GROUP MANDATED
TO DESIGN A PROGRAM FOR BASIC HUMAN NEEDS." PROGRAM
SHOULD BE READY FOR CONSIDERATION BY END OF THE YEAR.

2. GOVERNOR GILLIGAN IN HIS STATEMENT TO UNDP GOVERNING
COUNCIL ON JUNE 16 ALSO REFERRED TO US SUPPORT FOR PRO-
GRAMS TO MEET BASIC HUMAN NEEDS. USDEL IS NOW INVOLVED
IN INTENSIVE NEGOTIATION FOR FORMULATION OF DRAFT DECISION
TO GO FORWARD FROM UNDP TO ECOSOC SESSION BEGINNING IN
TWO WEEKS. CURRENT DRAFT (ALREADY FORWARDED DEPARTMENT)
URGES UNDP AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES TO EXPLORE HOW UN
SYSTEM CAN BEST MEET BASIC NEEDS OF POOREST.

3. IN VIEW OF ANNOUNCEMENT IN PARIS I STRONGLY
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URGE THAT USDEL TO UNDPGC BE AUTHORIZED TO TAKE
INITIATIVE IN STRENGTHENING CURRENT LANGUAGE IN DRAFT
ON BASIC NEEDS. WE WILL BE SUBMITTING SPECIFIC SUG-
GESTIONS IN THIS REGARD SHORTLY. THRUST WOULD BE
TO DEVELOP AN INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS IN AN INTER-
NATIONAL FORUM IN WHICH LDC'S ARE A MAJORITY. WHILE
US MAY NOT YET HAVE A CLEAR INDICATION OF WHAT PRECISELY

WE MEAN BY A BASIC NEEDS PROGRAM, I WISH TO UNDERScore
THE IMPORTANCE OF THE POLITICAL IMPACT OF SUCH AN INITIA-
TIVE IN ORDER TO COMPLEMENT THE OECD EXERCISE. TO PUT
IT VERY FRANKLY, THE AWKWARD SITUATION WE FACE AT
THIS MOMENT IS THAT THE OECD WORKING GROUP CAN BE
REGARDED AS A "TEACH-IN" BY THE RICH COUNTRIES ON THE
SUBJECT OF THE POOREST OF THE POOR WITHOUT CONSULTING
THE POOR COUNTRIES. US WILL RETURN TO THE THEME OF
BASIC NEEDS AGAIN AT ECOSOC AND AT GA. HOWEVER WE MUST
BE CAREFUL NOT TO GIVE SUPPORT TO THE ARGUMENTS OF THOSE
LDC OBSERVERS WHO ALREADY VIEW ALL TALK OF BASIC HUMAN
NEEDS AS A POSSIBLE GIMMICK BY THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES
TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM THE DEMANDS OF THE NIEO. OUR
BEST TACTIC TO DEFUSE SUCH AN ARGUMENT IS TO BEGIN DIS-
CUSSIONS IN A FORUM INCLUDING LDCS ON BASIC NEEDS AS A DEVELOPMENT
ISSUE.SORENSEN

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